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JOINES • KOTZ • RILEY • PRITCHETT
Krampus!

Previously in

Krampus!

Third issue of KRAMPUS! had been sent to press
And our hero was trapped in another fine mess.
In a rave he found Jack, a little boy lost
(Who was rumored to possess the surname of Frost).
Jack was suspected of being enticed
To steal from the Santas in a holiday heist.
But he was not guilty and as Krampus mood dampened
Jack steered him to Florida, where EVERYTHING happens.
Meanwhile the Santa coup came to a head
As Sinterklaas sought to be leader instead.
To usurp Father Christmas, whose rule he found rote,
The Secret Society was called to a vote.
While out in Miami, the Krampus caught word
Of a Christmas Eve land deal, likes of which was unheard.
He flew to the desert through dry, acrid skies
While symbols of snowflakes transfixed in his eyes.
He was met by Doc Holiday, who was lying in wait
The result of a Christmasy cosmic mistake.
The opponents faced off, in battle entwined,
'Til Krampus was knocked through an abandoned mine.
And there lay Mos Craciun, all withered and dead
The one at the North Pole was a traitor instead.
One mystery solved. But just wait, there's more!
Good thing you dropped three bucks to pick up book four.

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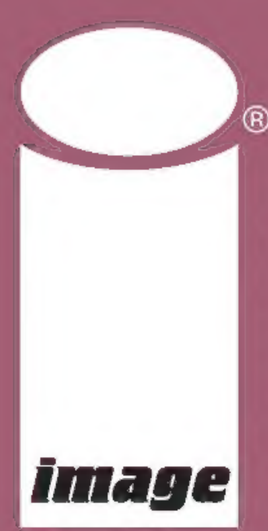

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CHRISTMAS, DID YOU HEAR ME?! ZEE TRAITOR IS MOS CRACIUN!
CHRISTMAS? WHY ARE YOU NOT RESPONDING?
YOU'D ZINK ZIS WOULD BE KIND OF A BIG DEAL.

YOU KNOW, IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO PICK UP ZEN WHY DO I EVEN BOTHGGLLLLKK!
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR CUTTING YOU OFF...
...BUT YOU AND I GOT USSELVES A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
HOLIDAY! YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND! ZEE SANTAS, I HAVE DISCOVERED WHO--
IT AIN'T MY JOB TO UNDERSTAND. MY JOB'S BRINGING YOU TO MY EMPLOYER, DEAD OR ALIVE.
AND RIGHT NOW, I'M LEANING TOWARDS DEAD, SO YOU BEST COMPLY.
YOU ARE AN IMBECILE, HOLIDAY. WHAT IS TO STOP ME FROM RIPPING YOU TO SHREDS BEFORE YOU--
OH, I SEE. YOU THOUGHT I MEANT YOU.
I MEANT HIM.

STUTGAARD!

I SWEAR, HOLIDAY, IF YOU HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO ***HURT*** HIM, I SHALL--

RELAX...HE'S RESTING. I GOT NO REASON TO SHOOT THAT PUP.

'LESS, OF COURSE, YOU GIVE ME ONE.

I... VERY WELL, HOLIDAY.

YOU ***WIN.***

GOOD CALL.

MARI LYWD! C'MON, BOY!

♫♪ BABY, YOU LIGHT UP MY WORLD LIKE NOBODY ELSE. THE WAY YOU FLIP YOUR HAIR GETS ME OVERWHELMED. BUT WHEN YOU SMILE AT THE GROUND IT AIN'T HARD TO TELL.♫♪

"...I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOME BIGGER ISSUES TO DEAL WITH."
MOS CRACIUN...?
WELL THEN...
...IT WOULD SEEM THERE'S NO MORE NEED FOR THIS.
TIME FOR YOU OLD FOOLS TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE REALLY DEALING WITH.
MOS GERILA?!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, GERILA? WHERE IS MOS CRACIUN?
DEAD. STRANGLED WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.
AND AS FOR THE MEANING... WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
REVENGE. FOR HOW YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS SOCIETY TREATED ME!
IT WAS SIMPLE TO POSE AS MOS CRACIUN, CONVINCING YOU ALL HOW POWERLESS YOU WERE AND WHIPPING YOU INTO A PANIC.
BUT THE GREATEST GIFT WAS FATHER CHRISTMAS RELEASING THE KRAMPUS!
I KNEW I COULD USE YOUR IRRATIONAL HATRED OF THE CREATURE TO TALK YOU INTO ANYTHING, SINTERKLAAS... INCLUDING STAGING A COUP!
FACE IT...
...I PLAYED YOU LIKE A SLEIGH BELL, OLD MAN.
AN INTRIGUING PLAN, GERILA, BUT NOT WITHOUT ITS FLAWS.
YOU FORGET, THERE ARE EIGHTEEN OF US AND ONLY ONE OF YOU.
AH, YOU ARE ALSO FORGETTING SOMETHING, FATHER CHRISTMAS.
♫♩

I POSSESS THE BONES OF ST. NICHOLAS!
FAREWELL, SANTAS. PITY I'LL BE FAR TOO BUSY TO CHECK ON YOUR SLOW DEMISE... BUT I'LL DREAM OF IT FONDLY.
ON MATA! ON TICHBORNE! ON CASSIUS! ON BRUTUS!
ON ETHEL! ON ARNOLD! ON VIDKUN! ON JUDAS!
WHERE IS IT? I MUST WARN HIM...
WOW... HE IS REALLY DRIVING HOME THE WHOLE "TRAITOR" THING, ISN'T HE?
KRAMPUS! COME IN PLEASE!
HELLO?
BLAST IT!

"WHERE IS THE KRAMPUS?"

♫ NOW, THE PARTY DON'T START TILL I WALK IN. ♫

♫ DON'T STOP, MAKE IT POP, DJ BLOW MY SPEAKERS UP TONIGHT, IM'MA FIGHT TILL WE SEE THE SUNLIGHT. TIK TOK ON THE CLOCK BUT THE PARTY DON'T STOP...♫

FOR ZEE LOVE OF GOD, SHUT ZEE HORSE UP! ZIS IS *TORTURE*!

HEY, YOU'RE LUCKY.

NOT THAT LONG AGO HE WENT THROUGH SOME *INDIE-FOLK* PHASE.

BE ZAT AS IT MAY, I HAVE NO QUALMS PUNISHING ZEE *MUSICALLY INCLINED*.

ZERE WAS AN ILL-BEHAVING MEMBER OF ZEE *VON TRAPP* FAMILY... HANS. ZEE FIRST *CELEBRITY* I CALLED UPON.

ZEY DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT HANS ANYMORE.

SO WHAT DID YOU DO TO THESE KIDS, ANYWAY? I HEAR TELL EVERYTHING FROM BEATIN' 'EM WITH STICKS TO DRAGGIN' 'EM TO HELL...

YOU FORGET, HOLIDAY, IN MY *SALAD DAYS* I HAD FULL ACCESS TO ZEE NAUGHTY LIST.

LET US JUST SAY ZEE PUNISHMENT FIT ZEE CRIME.

AND WHAT OF YOU? HOW DID YOU FIND ME SO QUICKLY? YOU MUST HAVE BEEN JUST RECENTLY HIRED...

WELL...

"...TURNS OUT THAT SPIRIT OF THE SEASON KINDA TOOK A LIKING TO ME. WATCHES OVER ME AND STUFF."
"I SAW ITS NAME WRITTEN IN THAT FELLER'S LOCKER IN ITALY. WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN...?"
BELSNICKEL.
THAT'S IT.
ANYWAY, BESIDE ITS NAME I FOUND A BROCHURE FOR MY OLD STOMPING GROUND IN ARIZONA.
ONCE WE GOT THERE, IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MARI AND I CAUGHT WIND OF YOU.
IMPRESSIVE...
BUT IF ZEE SPIRIT WAS WORTH ZEE DAMN, HE WOULD TELL YOU ZAT YOU ARE ON ZEE WRONG SIDE.
YOUR EMPLOYER, WHOEVER HE IS, PLAYS WITH MAGICKS HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND.
AND I KEEP TELLING YOU, I'M NOT ON A SIDE. I'M PAID TO DO A JOB, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
YOU GOT MONEY? YOU BEAT MY CURRENT OFFER, I'LL CUT YOU LOOSE RIGHT NOW.
'SIDES, DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT SIDE? YOU HATE THE SANTAS... HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU AIN'T BEING EUCHERED?
HOLD UP...

WE'RE HERE.
OH, ZANK GOD.
GOTTA MAKE MY MIND UP. WHICH SEAT WILL I TAKE?! IT'S FRIDAY! FRIDAY! GONNA GET DOWN ON FRIDAY! EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WEEKEND, WEEKEND!
SO YOUR EMPLOYER ACTUALLY HAS ZEE VOLCANO FORTRESS? NOTHING LIKE PERPETUATING ZEE STEREOTYPE.
I THOUGHT SO TOO...
...BUT FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT HAS SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.
KRAMPUS!
OLD MAN WINTER? WHAT--
DAMNABLE SUGAR PLUM FAIRIES ATTACKED PERMAFROST. WIPED OUT MOST OF MY FLURRIES, BROUGHT ME HERE.
LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT YOU TOO.
WHO, WINTER? WHO IS DOING ZIS?
NO IDEA. BUT I DID HEAR SOMETHING JUST MOMENTS AGO.
IT SOUNDED LIKE HOOVES.
REMAIN ON ALERT, WINTER. I SHALL FIND A WAY TO--
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE TALKIN' ABOUT RESCUING NOBODY...

"...'SPECIALLY WHEN THERE AIN'T NOBODY OUT THERE TO RESCUE YOU."
GRRAAWOOULLF!
RRR?
=SNIFF= =SNIFF=
RRR?
RRRF!

AH, KRAMPUS! WELCOME!
HOLIDAY, TAKE OFF THOSE ROPES. WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KRAMPUS?
JUST THINK, THE TWO GREATEST FOES THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES HAS EVER KNOWN, SOON TO BE UNITED IN A COMMON GOAL!
THOSE DECREPIT FOSSILS WOULD LOSE THEIR MINDS.
ZAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT ZERE IS ONE PROBLEM...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO ZEE YOU ARE.

NO IDEA--? MOS GERILA.
OUR PORTRAITS HAVE HUNG NEXT TO EACH OTHER'S IN THE HALL OF ENEMIES FOR DECADES!
I KNOW I HANG BESIDE ZEE LIKES OF JACOB MARLEY, MOTHER GINGER, AND ZEE KING OF ZEE WIND DEMONS.
YOU? NOT SO MUCH.
OF COURSE... YOU WERE LOCKED AWAY JUST AS I ARRIVED.
STILL, ONCE YOU HEAR MY STORY...
...YOU'LL REALIZE WE'RE KINDRED SPIRITS.
WELL, ZAT'S GOOD...
...BECAUSE NOTHING MAKES ME HAPPIER ZAN BONDING WITH ZEE MAIN ATTRACTION OF A HOLIDAY BACHELORETTE PARTY.
YOU REFUSE TO TAKE ME SERIOUSLY? CONSIDER THIS: YOU WERE FOUND IN THE DESERT. YOU MUST HAVE SEEN CRACIUN... WHERE I LEFT HIM. I ASK YOU...
...HOW SERIOUS AM I?
YES, ABOUT ZAT... YOU MURDERED A SANTA. INFILTRATED ZEIR RANKS. YET, NO MENTION ON ZEE NAUGHTY LIST... NOBODY SAW YOU COMING.
HOW?
SIMPLE...

I SAW ZAT MARKING ON A CACTUS WHERE MOS CRACIUN WAS BURIED! AND ON ZEE WOMAN WHO SOLD YOU ZEE PROPERTY!
AND--
...WITH THIS.
THIS MARKING, A MAGICAL GLYPH, ALLOWS ME TO MOVE UNNOTICED BY LISTS NAUGHTY OR NICE.
WAIT...
AND ON BELSNICKEL'S STORAGE UNIT.
YES, YOUR FRIEND LEARNED OF THE GLYPH JUST BEFORE DISCOVERING A TURNCOAT IN THE SANTAS' RANKS.
HE USED THE MAGIC TO HIDE HIS FINDINGS FROM THEM, UNTIL HE COULD FERRET THE TRAITOR OUT.
ANYTHING THAT OCCURS WITHIN THE PROXIMITY OF THE GLYPH NEGATES THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE SENIOR CITIZENS.
HOW ELSE DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU WERE ABLE TO ATTACK HOLIDAY WITHOUT YOUR BOMB GOING OFF?
ZEN WHY BOTHER WITH ZEE LAND PURCHASE? IF ZEE SANTAS CANNOT DETECT ZEE MARKING, WHY NOT JUST BURY CRACIUN BESIDE ZEE GLYPH?
BECAUSE ONE SHOULD ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THE BODIES ARE BURIED, MY FRIEND. AND BY THE TIME I'M FINISHED...
...THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HIDDEN FROM ME AS WELL.
PERHAPS...

...BUT YOU WILL NOT BE AROUND TO FIND ZEM!
YOU HAVE OVERPLAYED YOUR HAND, "MEIN FREUND." IF ZEE MARKING RENDERS ZEE NAUGHTY BOMB POWERLESS...
...ZEN NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM RENDING ZEE WELL-DEFINED FLESH FROM YOUR BONES!
NOTHING...
...'CEPTIN' ME, OF COURSE.
HOLIDAY. I FORGOT YOU WERE HERE.
YOU BRISTLE WITH INCONSEQUENCE.
ONCE I'M GONE, YOU TWO CAN WHOOMP AND WALLOP ON EACH OTHER 'TIL THE COWS COME HOME. BUT UNTIL I GET PAID--
YES, OF COURSE. A GROSS OVERSIGHT ON MY PART.
RHUBARB! SANCHEZ!
WHOEVER YOU ARE! VERIFY THE PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO MR. HOLIDAY'S ACCOUNT!
I TOLD YOU WE ALL LOOKED THE SAME TO HIM.
RACIST PRICK.
NOW, HOLIDAY, IF YOU WILL BE SO KIND AS TO KEEP YOUR GUN TRAINED ON THE KRAMPUS...
...I WILL EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE BEST SERVED AS ALLIES.

"IT ALL STARTED IN *BUCHAREST.*"
"I WAS A YOUNG SOLDIER WORKING UNDER ROMANIA'S NEW *COMMUNIST REGIME.*"
"ONE DAY, I WAS SUMMONED BY MY SUPERIORS. THEY TOLD ME I WAS SELECTED FOR A VERY SPECIAL MISSION."
"I WAS TAKEN TO A REMOTE PRISON LOCATION. NEEDLESS TO SAY MY MIND WAS *RACING.*"
"STILL, EVEN THE WILDEST... OR DARKEST... CORNERS OF MY IMAGINATION COULD NOT HAVE PREPARED ME FOR WHAT I SAW THAT DAY."
"NOT ONLY HAD MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF AN ENTIRE SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES..."
"...BUT THEY'D MANAGED TO CAPTURE ROMANIA'S REPRESENTATIVE."
"PARTY LEADERS FELT BELIEF IN MOS CRACIUN REPRESENTED A THREAT TO THE NEW REGIME. THEY SOUGHT TO REPLACE HIM WITH A FIGURE MORE IN LINE WITH THEIR MINDSET."
"I WAS CHOSEN TO BE THAT FIGURE."

"USING CRACIUN'S CAPTURED REINDEER, WE FLEW TO THE NORTH POLE TO MAKE OUR PRESENCE KNOWN."
"TO SAY THE SANTAS GREETED US WITH OPEN ARMS WOULD BE AN *UNDERSTATEMENT.* STILL, THEY CONCEDED, LEST THEY RISK EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD."
"THOSE YEARS...INTERACTING WITH THE OTHER SANTAS, TAKING PRESENTS TO THE CHILDREN...THEY WERE THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE."
"OF COURSE, TIMES CHANGE AND WITH THEM, GOVERNMENTS. WITH THE REVOLUTION IN FULL BLOOM, THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS EJECTED FROM ROMANIA..."
"...JUST AS I WAS EJECTED FROM THE SOCIETY UPON MOS CRACIUN'S RELEASE."
"FRIENDS I HAD MADE AMONG THE SANTAS TURNED AGAINST ME. I WAS RETURNED TO A HOME WHERE NOBODY KNEW WHO I WAS, WHERE EVERYTHING I KNEW HAD BEEN *ABOLISHED.*"
"ANYONE KNOWING OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SANTAS WAS DEALT WITH, IN A MOST *PERMANENT* FASHION."
"EVERYONE EXCEPT *ME.*"

THE SANTAS SAW FIT TO REDUCE ME TO NOTHING, LEAVING ME WITH THE MEMORIES OF WHAT I ONCE WAS.
THAT IS MY PENANCE.
GET OVER YOURSELF, GERILA. ZEE SOCIETY TREATED YOU LIKE SHIT. BOO HOO, I'LL ALERT ZEE MEDIA.
ZEE SANTAS OWN ME. AS LONG AS I HAVE ZEE BOMB STRAPPED TO MY CHEST, ZEY WILL ALWAYS HAVE ZEE UPPER HAND.
EVEN IF I WERE TO REMAIN HERE WITH YOU, OR GET ZEE TATTOO MYSELF, IT WOULD NOT MATTER. ZEY WOULD FIND A WAY TO GET TO ME, TO DETONATE IT.
ZEY ARE A RESOURCEFUL BUNCH.
YOU GOT KICKED OFF ZEE A-LIST. I'M TALKING ABOUT ZEE REST OF MY LIFE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THE TWO ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE?
WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, KRAMPUS, IS THAT I DON'T JUST WANT REVENGE ON THE SANTAS...
...I WANT TO BE THE SANTA. SINGULAR. THE ONE THE WORLD BELIEVES IN.
SINCE OBTAINING THE BONES OF ST. NICHOLAS I'VE ACQUIRED A NUMBER OF THE SANTAS' SKILLS. FLYING REINDEER... AN EXTENDED LIFESPAN...

SNAP
...AND I AM QUITE CERTAIN I CAN DO THIS.
AAAAHH!
NAUGHTY BOMB DISENGAGED.
CLNK CLNK
KLNK
BUT HOW DID ZEE... WHAT DID YOU--
THERE WE HAVE IT. FREE OF YOUR CAGE, TAKEN OFF YOUR LEASH, ABLE TO WALK YOUR OWN PATH WITHOUT REPERCUSSION.
THINK OF IT: ME, REWARDING CHILDREN WITH GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE; YOU, PUNISHING THE WICKED ONES, LIKE YOU WERE MEANT TO DO.
NOW JOIN ME IN UNDOING THE SUFFERING THE SANTAS HAVE BROUGHT TO US BOTH!
IT'S WHAT WE WERE DESTINED FOR.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I SAY...

"...LET'S TALK."
THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER! WE NEED TO ACT BEFORE GERILA CAN--
OH, YOU'VE ACTED ENOUGH, SINTERKLAAS. IF YOU HADN'T FALLEN FOR HIS LIES, LET HIM SWAY YOU INTO THIS ENTIRE ELECTION FARCE...
YOU THINK I'M TO BLAME FOR THIS? HE INFILTRATED US UNDER YOUR--
FATHER CHRISTMAS!
HOTEIOSHO?
YOU MUST COME OUTSIDE AT ONCE! BOTH OF YOU!
WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS ABOUT? IF YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO DISTRACT ME FROM--
LOOK!
STUTGAARD!
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IF HE'S HERE...

"...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KRAMPUS?"
WELL, HOLIDAY, THE TRANSACTION CLEARED. IT WOULD SEEM THIS CONCLUDES OUR BUSINESS.
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON, YOU ASK ME.
I SHOULDN'T CARE, BUT ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, KRAMPUS?
YOU GOT A SERIOUS HATE FOR THE SANTAS, BUT YOU'RE PULLIN' A TOTAL ONE-EIGHTY WITH--
DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF, HOLIDAY. I AM FINE.
IF'N YOU SAY SO. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO GET INVOLVED.
YOU BOYS TRY AND PLAY NICE TOGETHER, OKAY?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?! I'M A BLOODY FORCE OF NATURE!
I WON'T BE MANHANDLED LIKE SOME GARDEN-VARIETY GOODTIME TROLLOP!
UNHAND ME, I SAID!
I...
NOPE.
NOT MY PROBLEM.

KRAMPUS! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE, LAD! NOW GIVE ME A HAND AND DECIMNATE THESE SUCROSE SCAPEGRACES, WILL YOU?
WELL, KRAMPUS? WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?
I... APOLOGIZE, WINTER.
STRAP HIM TO ZEE MONOLITH.
WHAT?!
THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
I KNOW THAT WAS NOT EASY FOR YOU...
...BUT YOU WILL COME TO SEE HOW NECESSARY IT TRULY WAS.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, KRAMPUS! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
I'LL MAKE YOU PAY!
YES, YES, ENOUGH OF THAT. NOW, IF I CAN JUST REMEMBER THE INCANTATION...
AAAIIGGH!
YES! LET IT COME!
RELEASE THE ENERGY... BURY THE WORLD IN ICE AND SNOW...

...AND THEN I SHALL BE THE SANTA SUPREME!
TO BE CONTINUED...

Greetings, readers, and welcome to the fourth issue of KRAMPUS! *As you see, we're in the home stretch now; a lot of the mysteries have been revealed (although not all), a lot of the moving pieces have begun to come together, and we're building up the big finale for our first storyline next issue! All your patience (and all our research) pays off there.*

And now…zee emails! We kick off with our old friend Maficklin, who is back like so much McRib:.

To the Krewe of Krampus,

Another great issue!!

I loved the Nutcracker assassin and await his ominous return. I will miss Old Man Winter and suspect his son, Jack (Frost?), will be taking over the family business soon. I enjoyed Doc Holiday, his bar and it's patrons. (No guardians rising here!) Hate the location: a Swamp. Yuck. I live too near swampland. The drama within the Santa Society and it's traitor is developing nicely. I am looking forward the the next revelation.

I disagree with those who desire a more traditional appearance for Krampus. I am glad your Krampus has a more expressive face and does not look horrific. Based on comments about the Peltznichol in the letter column, is it possible that Klaubauf and Krampus are also separate individuals?

I am sorry for the loss of the Ninjabread Men, Felix Navidad and Sweet Christmas. I can offer as open content:

- ***Eleze Navidad***
- ***the Ginger Dread-Men***
- ***Kandy Kaynd (candy caned)***
- ***Holly Wraeth (holly wraith)***

I googled these and i don't think any legal issues should arise. I also offer as open content:

- ***Egg Naug the Noggin***
- ***the Winter Warloghe (not the famous Winter Warlock).***
- ***Eveneser Scourged.***

Hope this helps.

Thanks for the suggestions, Maficklin…those are some great names! I don't have a need to use them for this run, but maybe someday. Or maybe you should use them and write your own book!

Thanks for the compliments on the Doc Holiday scene in issue 2; that was a personal favorite of mine to think up and put together and, of course, Dean killed it on the execution. And as someone who was extremely disappointed in the Rise of the Guardians film (but loved the idea), I'm glad our little scene distinguished itself. Sorry the swamp setting didn't sit well for you, but I think too many hours of watching Superfriends as a kid has made swamps my default hidden headquarters location. And to answer your question: yes, the Krampus and Klaubauf are two

separate entities. Hopefully I'll get to do a "Krampus family reunion" story someday featuring Klaubauf, Namahage, and a few demonic-looking folks from around the globe.

And a special congrats to you going back to the first: as you now know, you correctly called Mos Gerila as the villain of the series. Sorry the traitor didn't turn out to be Hoteiosho, per your guess, but we have bigger plans in mind for our Japanese delegate.

Dear Krampus Krew,

Having just put down issue #2 of KRAMPUS!, I felt compelled to write my first letter to a comic- praising the work on both issues so far of course.

Having just decided to begin collecting comics after a long desire to, it feels as though coming across KRAMPUS! was destined. I have always been fascinated by the Krampus legend and have used it as a focal point for the holidays for many years so seeing Issue #1, there on the rack, was a taunt to try not to pick it up. Luckily for me though, it wasn't long before I was captured by Krampus' claws and found myself dragged in with a huge smile on my face. Dean Kotz's art is nothing sort of amazing- a true example of art that practically begs for someone to frame and hang up on a wall out of love (be it here or the samples on his DeviantArt account.) The designs of the Santas, Stutgaard or the Krampus himself-- it's just- everything just clicks on a wonderful level that is only brought out more so by Ron Riley's coloring. Every page is dynamic, oozing action and a general sense of fun creating a true classic.

Charles Pritchett's lettering is equally fantastic at bringing out Brian Joines' amazing story with precision. There's humor and genuine intrigue that I find myself gripped page-by-page. It's fast paced but not needlessly so that I, as the reader, feels that it's too quick but instead, rather perfect. (Another month for the next issue?? Aagh, it's too long!)

I can't wait for the future issues (and glad to see that I'm not the only one that thinks the cast of CHEERS is following them!)

Robert Ward

We're honored you decided to make KRAMPUS! the first comic you decided to write to, Robert, especially with so many great books on the shelves! You've definitely picked the right time to start collecting comics. So glad you're enjoying the book!

One of the great things about doing this book has been people writing in about their own experiences with the Krampus legend. It's been fun hearing about where people first heard about it, what kind of role it's played in their lives, and their reactions to seeing a comic featuring our guy so prominently.

And thanks for singling out the whole creative team! Dean gets a lot of praise (all of it deserved) but Ron and Charles are our two (mostly) unsung heroes on the book. As I've said before, people who like the book like it because of the complete package and Ron and Charles are essential to that.

Always send a sugar plum fairy to do a bad guys job. The writing in this comic is so good. I give voices for everyone and reading Krampus lines crack me up. Krampus's one-liners make me laugh all the time. I'm glad he is our protagonist. I can

see myself reading this comic for a long time coming.

The bad guy talking through a snow globe is great. I'm looking forward to seeing who infiltrate The Secret Society of Santa Clauses. Which by the way are awesome. I want to see more personalities come out in that group.

It's funny how going into Holiday's really expanded the world. You can see all those characters in that bar coming back again. The Easter Bunny is a lush. I'm looking forward to finding out more about Doc Holiday. Doc is totally representing all of the holidays in his clothing. That is going to be a good confrontation between Krampus and Doc.

You guys are keeping all the best parts of the holidays alive.

Colin Orr

Thanks, Colin! Glad you're digging on the Krampus and his one-liners so much. One of my favorite things to do when I'm just about done with a script is to sit down and read it out loud, complete with terrible German accent, to make sure the Krampus's put-downs and snide comments work (as well as other characters). Happy to read it's working for you!

We'll get a few more samplings of the Secret Society members, but most of the main players of the group have already been used. Maybe in a future story…especially considering certain events that happen next issue! And although we're obviously focusing on the Christmas/holiday characters for the book, we always planned on showing that there was much more to the world than the yuletide types. Maybe someday we can explore it more in a Doc Holiday special or something like that...we'll have to wait and see.

Hello!
I don't normally write letters, but just I just got back into comics in fuller force, and Krampus! was exactly what I wanted from a comic at exactly the time I didn't expect to find one, Christmas. Thinking this series would be short-lived, I saw the potential for a festive flip on the holidays, and as the cliche goes, no tradition like a new one. It's great fun, with my only real displeasure being the monthly wait to see what happens next. With the introduction of "Holiday's" bar, I know it's not a gimmick, but a rich mine of, I'm not sure, but eagerly anticipate whatever is to come. Love the story you've begun, the characters, of course the artwork, and especially that I finally have something I can share with my Jewish friend year round (we're making snow-golems this year. We're that kind of stupid.) I'm very curious what (from the Comics realm or otherwise) inspired the team? Not often I find something is plainly fun AND subversive.

Hope for much success, endless inspiration, and (if needed) luck.

Sincerely,
Michael James Lindgren

I just want you to know right now, Michael, that I am KICKING myself for not thinking of snow-golems. "Stupid" is subjective, my friend.

Thanks for the kind words on the book, especially the label of "plainly fun and subversive"…that's the kind of combo vibe I was really hoping to go for on this book. As far as inspirations go, I can't speak for the others, but I was raised around very funny people who introduced me to things like Monty Python, Spike Jones, and Mel Brooks at a very early age. As far as comics

go, I've always gravitated towards the more comedic, off-kilter ones like Howard the Duck, Ambush Bug, The Tick, The Cowboy Wally Show, Nextwave, and my current standard-bearer, CHEW. If I manage to pull off even a fraction of what those guys did, then I'm a very happy man.

It is just so awesome that an Anti-Claus is finally getting some attention and love again. What is old becomes new again. Modern Christmas is just way too gooey and sweet as it is.

Siiri
Lewiston, Maine USA

Hah! Short and sweet, Siiri. Love it! Glad you approve of our attempts to bring a healthy dose of jaded cynicism to the season. Thanks for reading!

And finally…what?!? A Maficklin double-shot? What kind of topsy-turvy world are we living in?!

Another great issue!

I loved the meeting between Doc and the Sprit of the Season. Too Funny! The fight between Doc and Krampus was really good too. The gun-slinging bar owner is becoming an interesting character. I hope Doc stays around for a while...unless he's the one who murdered Mos Craciun! Great cliffhanger and plot twist!

I never considered one of the Santa's was a imposter. He could a giant toy or one of the enemies of Christmas who's portraits hang in the rogue's gallery. I think you hinted to the latter in the last letter column. Speaking of the letter column, thanks for sharing about Namahage and Frau Perchta. I assume that Perchta and La Befana are enemies. I am not assuming that Befana is an ally of the Santa Society based on Jack Frost's statements. Love the world building! Looking forward to the next issue.

Thanks again!

Hey, thank you for being our most vociferous supporter! One email per issue…that's awesome!

Glad you like Doc's origin…some people were a bit off-put by his initial appearance, thinking it was just some random thing, but hopefully tying him into the greater mythology of the book has changed their minds a bit. And as you now know, Doc had no role in killing Mos Craciun. And again, correct with guessing one of the people in the portraits was the one behind it all. If you look back at issue one, the placement of our "shadowy figure" between the portraits of Mos Gerila and the Krampus was a pretty big clue.

And that's a great guess about La Befana. We won't get to her in this series, but when she finally does roll around, we'll see exactly how the Secret Society regards her actions.

And that's a wrap! Hope to see you all back here next month for the big conclusion, as well as some news/thoughts on the future of the book. In the meantime, send your commentary, compliments, or criticisms to us at krampusletters@gmail.com...and make sure to say it's okay to print your email.

Thanks for reading and the support, everyone! Keep spreading zee Krampus word and we'll see you in a few!

Brian Joines
Portland, OR
2/26/14

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USER'S GUIDE TO THE SECRET SOCIETY OF SANTA CLAUSES

1. Father Christmas.....United Kingdom
2. Weihnachtsmann.....Germany
3. Hoteiosho.....Japan
4. Sinterklaas.....Netherlands
5. Agios Vassilis.....Greece
6. Baba Chaghaloo.....Afghanistan
7. Mos Craciun.....Romania
8. Ded Moroz.....Russia
9. Kaghand Papik.....Armenia
10. Kris Kringle.....United States
11. Dun Che Lao Ren.....China
12. Papa Noel.....Spain
13. Vader Kersfees.....Iraq
14. Joulupukki.....Finland
15. Daidi Na Nollaig.....Ireland
16. Pere Noel.....France
17. Karacsony Apo.....Hungary
18. Kanakaloka.....Pacific Islands
19. Babbo Natale.....Italy

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